

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for validating consistency of entities modeling a physical asset of a utility, which entities are stored in data sets of a multitude of different IT systems of the utility, wherein a consistency service includes:

an input buffer in which an entity to be validated for consistency can be placed;

output means in which the result of the consistency validation can be stored and

communication means to communicate with the different IT systems, wherein an adapter for each of the IT systems allows communication between the consistency service and [[the]] each IT [[systems]] system having a respective data model, such that a signal sent by the consistency service to verify an existence of a specific data set of an IT system can be sent back to the consistency service if that specific data set exists, and

wherein a reference container holds references to the entities in the data sets of the various IT systems such that a specific entity of a respective data model in a specific IT system can be addressed through the adapter of the specific IT system, said method comprising the following steps:

loading a reference to the entity to be validated for consistency into the buffer of the consistency service;

initializing an adapter of the IT system associated with the entity to be validated for consistency;

the consistency service, sending a signal ~~to verify~~ for verifying the existence of a specific data set ~~of an IT system~~ to the IT system holding the entity to be validated for consistency via the adapter; and

storing consistency validating information in the output means, based on the signal being sent back to the consistency service by the adapter of the IT system associated with the entity to be validated for consistency.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

logging a failure of consistency validation if the adapter sends no signal ~~is sent~~ back to the consistency service, by adding the entity, which was to be validated for consistency, and the IT system, which was not replying to the signal, to a log file.

3 (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

the consistency service, checking the communication to the IT system holding the data set to be verified prior to sending the signal to verify the existence of the specific data set of that IT system.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

loading a multitude of entities to be validated for consistency into the buffer of the consistency service; and

the consistency service, successively processing the entities to be validated for consistency, sending out signals and storing consistency validating information in the output means.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer program product loadable into an internal memory of a digital computer, comprising:

computer program code means to make, when said program is loaded in the computer, the computer execute the method of claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A consistency validating system for validating consistency of entities modeling a physical asset of a utility, which entities are stored in data sets of a multitude of different IT systems of the utility, said system

~~[[comprising]]~~ comprising:

a consistency service having an input buffer in which an entity to be validated for consistency can be placed, output means in which the result of the consistency validation can be stored and communication means to communicate with the different IT systems,

wherein an adapter for each of the IT systems allows communication between the consistency service and ~~[[the]]~~ each IT ~~[[systems]]~~ system having a respective data model, such that a signal sent by the consistency service to verify an existence

of a specific data set of an IT system can be sent back to the consistency service if that specific data set exists, and

wherein a reference container holds references to the entities in the data sets of the various IT systems such that a specific entity of a respective data model in a specific IT system can be addressed through the adapter of the specific IT system,

wherein the consistency service is adapted for sending a signal to verify the existence of a specific data set ~~of an IT system~~ to the IT system holding the entity to be validated for consistency via the adapter, and

wherein the output means are adapted for storing consistency validating information based on the signal being sent back to the consistency service.